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## essence

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essence  
pearl essence



Main Entry: **es·sence**

Pronunciation: 'e-s<sup>&</sup>n(t)s

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *essencia*, from Latin *essentia*, from *esse* to be -- more at [IS](#)

**1 a** : the permanent as contrasted with the accidental element of being **b** : the individual, real, or ultimate nature of a thing especially as opposed to its existence <a painting that captures the *essence* of the land> **c** : the properties or attributes by means of which something can be placed in its proper class or identified as being what it is

**2** : something that exists : **ENTITY**

**3 a** (1) : a volatile substance or constituent (as of perfume) (2) : a constituent or derivative possessing the special qualities (as of a plant or drug) in concentrated form; *also* : a preparation of such an essence or a synthetic substitute **b** : **ODOR**, **PERFUME**

**4** : one that possesses or exhibits a quality in abundance as if in concentrated form <she was the *essence* of punctuality>

**5** : the most significant element, quality, or aspect of a thing or person <the *essence* of the issue>

- **in essence** : in or by its very nature : **ESSENTIALLY**, **BASICALLY** <was *in essence* an honest person>

- **of the essence** : of the utmost importance <time is *of the essence*>

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